

Gjovalin Nikçi

914-309-1002

140 North Broadway FT-11
Irvington, NY 10533

Irvington, New York
October 11th 2018

Hon. Kiyo A. Matsumoto
United States District Judge
United States District Court
Eastern District of New York
225 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Dear Judge Matsumoto:

My name is Gjovalin Nikçi and I am writing to you regarding Xhevat Goçaj.

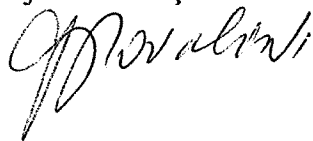
I have known Xhevat my entire life, we come from the same background, were born in the same city, went to the same school, our houses are a couple hundred feet apart and we basically grew up together. Our early friendship continued from the old country into United States. Besides attending family functions (weddings, funerals, etc) together, we served for years in Plavë - Guci Foundation based in the Bronx with a very impressive community outreach. Xhevat has shown from the early age the ability and willingness to help those less fortunate than us. He worked tirelessly to help not only our community but other organizations as well. Ever since he came to the United States he worked hard and I actually don't remember him ever not having a job. He has a wonderful family that any man could be proud of. Xhevat and his family were always strong pillars of our community and I remember one particular episode from my early years. I used to attend St. Anthony's church in Guci (our hometown). the church is basically in front of Xhevat's house and one night some noise was heard coming from the church property. Without hesitation Xhevat's father Adem and the entire family grabbed whatever they could and ran toward the church to find out if someone was attempting a robbery or assault. When asked why they risked their lives not belonging to the church Xhevat's answer was : The church belongs to God and people and we feel that's our church as well.

Dear Judge Matsumoto:

I am aware of Xhevat's plea and only ask you to consider the many years of great community service he has in his life, his good heart, his will to help others. His family and community need him. Please, Please consider this as a plea for my brother, my friend and my neighbor Xhevat.

I thank you and may God bless you.

Gjovalin Nikçi





October 12, 2018

Hon.Kiyo A Matsumoto
United States District Judge
United States District Court
Eastern District Of New York
225 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Dear Judge Matsumoto,

My name is Djon Nikac, I am writing this letter on behalf of my good friend Xhevat (John) Gocaj who also happened to be my childhood friend.

John and I grew up in a small town of Montenegro called Gusinje, we have been friends since little kids, our families have a strong bond between each other. Since we both came to the United States our friendship only got stronger. Furthermore, we spend a lot of time doing activities together, whether it is going to each other's houses for dinners, wedding or simply hang out.

John has always been respected in our community, it was him through Guci Foundation who helped three (3) very poor families to build new home for them back in our town, it is him who constantly contributes to schools every winter to purchase coal so that students can have heat during very cold winter season in our city.

I consider John as a loving husband, caring father and a great son who works very hard to support his wife, his children and his parents back home.

John is honorable individual a valuable member of our community and a good human being, my family and I are proud to have him in our lives.

Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Djon Nikac
Resident Manager
505 Greenwich Condo
New York N/Y 10013
Tel 212 966 4055
Cell 917 335 0999
Djonnikac@aol.com

Djon Nikac

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Djon Nikac', written over a horizontal dashed line.

Bujar Ostrozubi
142-09 84th Drive
Briarwood, NY 11435
Tel: 917.607.9250

October 12, 2018

Hon. Kiyo A. Matsumoto
United States District Judge
United States District Court
Eastern District of New York
225 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, New York 11201

RE: Xhevat (John) Gocaj

Dear Judge Matsumoto:

I was 19 years old when I immigrated to the United States and when I first met John 26 years ago. I spoke very little English and was terribly home sick. He put in a good word and helped me get a job bussing tables in an Italian restaurant. He mentored me for a while until I was able to stand on my own. I am forever grateful for his guidance and friendship during those early years.

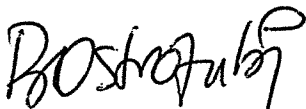
We kept in touch over the years mainly due to John's involvement in always helping others. He is a valued member of the Albanian American community and is always involved in charitable causes such as raising funds for others due to illness and poverty. During these charity events he does all the barbequing and serves everyone who attends; in the end also takes his time to play soccer with the kids. He always wants to make sure everyone is enjoying themselves while also highlighting the importance of charity.

For the past four years I've worked side by side with John at Il Tinello Ristorante. We work together twelve hours per day, six days a week. I think I spend more time with John at the restaurant than my own family. John is an honest, hardworking, respectful and kind individual and expects no less from his staff and the people who surround him. He is a family man and has always been understanding with myself and our staff when absence is needed to tend to family matters. I am very involved in my son's basketball activities and John has always accommodated me when I had to attend tournaments. This is quite difficult to do in restaurant services. John understands family comes first and the years go by so quickly where the kids grow in a blink of an eye. He cherishes every moment with his family and accommodates me in doing the same.

I hope you take into consideration that John is needed to run the restaurant as it's quite difficult to manage the floor, staff, and clients without him. His absence would add tremendous strain on staff and quality of services. His family and community would greatly suffer as well because he is an integral part of many lives.

Please contact me should you require any further information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Ostrozubi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bujar Ostrozubi

Hon. Kiyo A. Matsumoto
United States District Judge
United States District Court
Eastern District of New York
225 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Dear Judge Matsumoto,

I hope this note finds you well. First and foremost, thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I am pleased to write this on behalf of my longtime friend, Xhevat Gocaj. I believe I am in a position to speak to Xhevat's moral character, so I hope you will take this letter into account when making your decision.

My name is Sadri Selimaj, and it's been a real privilege to know Xhevat Gocaj ever since we were both in diapers. Xhevat and I grew up in a small town in Montenegro (Plave-Guci), where we finished elementary, middle, and high school together. I've watched him grow up into the dependable, responsible, honest and courteous man he is today.

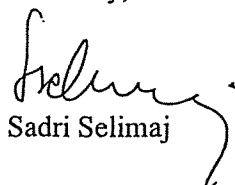
In short, Xhevat is a good person. He's always been kind and generous with others. He has a strong sense of duty, which applies in his job, family, and community. I will forever be grateful for what he has done for me and my family, for example, when I was living in Kosovo during 1998-1999, there was a war and I had lost my job. Therefore, I was unable to provide for my family and struggling to make it from day to day. Once Xhevat learned of my situation, he reached out to me and offered his help. He sent me money so that I could put food on the table for myself, my wife and three children. Times like these is when you realize who your true friends are and their loyalty.

After moving to the states, Xhevat and I rekindled our friendship. Thereafter, we both became part of a non-profit organization called, Plave-Guci Foundation, where we collect donations to assist the under privileged, low-income residents of small towns, Plave and Guci, in Montenegro. In multiple occasions, Xhevat has made generous money donations to multiple families. One of the examples is the Vukaj family that had lost their home. He was a big part of their newly built house and even after provided a roof over their head, Xhevat assisted to provide food on their table throughout years. Xhevat also donated for three other families who didn't have homes and was the first one to always assist in any matter that he was able to, either his time or money.

For all the time that I have known Xhevat, he has been a trustworthy and a decent man. I just hope that you have the opportunity to see that while you make a fair decision.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 917.685.9923 or via email, sadriselimaj@gmail.com Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,


Sadri Selimaj

October 11, 2018

Dear Judge Matsumoto,

I write this letter to you in hopes that you find it in your heart to be lenient with my dear friend Xhevat Gocaj.

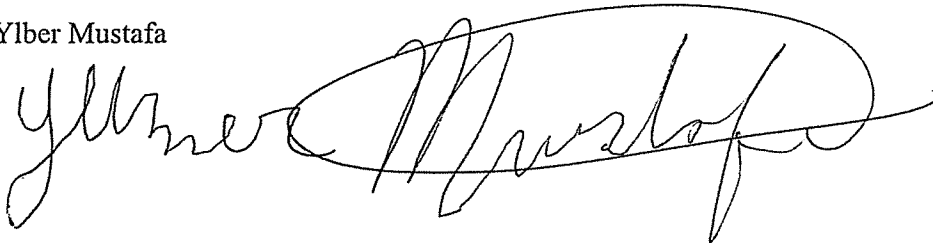
My name is Ylber Mustafa, I live in New York and have been a very close friend to Xhevat or how many of us called him John. During the many years of friendship that we have. I have to say John is one of the most caring, giving and honest gentlemen I have ever met. John is the one guy who stands out in a room. His laughter and generous gestures show who he really is as a person. I was lucky to have met John over a decade ago. With this alone shows what a great friend he is since he is still around today.

I can not believe the charges that are brought upon my friend. These words are just out of the character that John truly possesses. He is nothing that you think he is. He would never put his life or family in jeopardy. He would do anything for them.

Sentencing Xhevat would be a devastating time for him and his family. They need him as much as his friends need him. I can say many things that John has helped me in my lifetime but I want to just say he has always been positive to any negative situation. I hope you find it in yourself to be lenient when sentencing John and know that there are many friends and family who need him.

Thank you,

Ylber Mustafa

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ylber Mustafa', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned below the typed name 'Ylber Mustafa'.

October 12, 2018

Dear Judge Matsumoto,

I am writing this letter to you in hopes that you consider what I have to say and become lenient with my dear friend Xhevat Gocaj during his sentencing.

My name is Eli Dibra. I am a close friend to the Gocaj family and to Xhevat as many of us called him John. I met John a few years back. I met John through his son, with who I became good friends with. I am a plumber for a company I opened on my own in New York City.

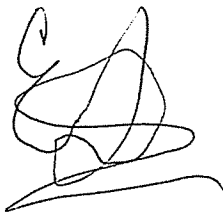
John was always someone I enjoyed running into. He always carried a bag full of wisdom and had a way with his words. There were many times where I was having a bad day or needed someone to talk to and I knew that John was the right one to ask for advice. He was like a father figure. He made sure I was on the right track and that I wasn't doubting myself.

It was a total shock to see the charges that are brought upon my dear friend. I know that he would never hurt anyone or do anything that is against the law. John is a stand-up guy with stand up qualities. These charges are completely out of his true character.

With that being said, I hope that you take the time to read this letter and consider giving Mr. Gocaj a chance to prove himself to you. He is a family man, a man of his words and lastly a man whose heart is bigger than he knows.

Sincerely,

Eli Dibra

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Eli Dibra', with a stylized, cursive script.

October 12, 2018

Honorable Judge Matsumoto,

My name is Halil Dzaferovic. I am writing to you to respectfully ask for leniency when sentencing Xhevat Gocaj.

Xhevat was my first boss. I worked in his restaurant when I was 18 years old. I owe the most respect to Xhevat for the work etiquette that I withhold till this day. As I am now a full-time electrician, Xhevat has absolutely set my foundation of creating what kind of worker I am today. I think that the way Xhevat took care of me as one of his employees really taught me that life is more about the finer things in life. Family and respect were just a few things that he instilled on me for years. I know how to troubleshoot through certain events because I remember the things that he would tell me at a younger age.

I know that the public and yourself see Xhevat as someone who can bring harm to a community, but that just isn't him. He isn't what is said about him. He is much different than that. He is an incredible human being with a huge heart. He would lend a helping hand to anyone in need.

Please forgive Xhevat for he is not what you think he is. Forgive him for the sake of giving someone another chance. Most of all forgive him because there is plenty of people who he can help and who he can put on the right track just the way he did for me. Please be lenient with Xhevat Gocaj.

Sincerely,

Halil Dzaferovic

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Halil Dzaferovic". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent 'H' and 'D'.

October 13, 2018

Dear Judge Matsumoto,

I am Saranda Gjonbalaj and I'm good friends with Xhevat Goçaj (John). I know him from eating in Antica on the west Side. So I followed him to il Tinello. I know John as a great man. Such a hard worker.

He loves hiss wife and kids unconditionally. I think these charges are unexplainable. He will never harm himself or his family.

Please if you need me 646-932-3270 or email me sarandagee@aol.com.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Saranda Gjonbalaj". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Saranda" being more prominent and the last name "Gjonbalaj" following in a similar style. Below the signature, the name "Saranda Gjonbalaj" is printed in a standard, sans-serif font.

Saranda Gjonbalaj

Kujtim Rugova
2130 Williamsbridge Road
Bronx, NY 10461

10/13/2018

Hon. Kiyo A. Matsumoto
United States District Judge
United States District Court
Eastern District of New York
225 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, NY 11201

RE: Xhevat Gocaj

Dear Judge Masumoto,

My name is Kujtim Rugova, I came to this country as an exchange student when I was 16 years old. After I graduated from high school in Mena, Arkansas because of the war in Yugoslavia I couldn't go back home. My family and I were seperated, I was on one half of the world and they were on the other half. That's when my mom told me call your uncle Johnny, he will be the only one to help you. I moved to New york and moved with my uncle Johnny. He welcomed me into his home with all his heart and took me under his wing. He showed me how to take the train, how to become responsible, he got me my first job, and he always urged me to continue my studies and he would support me through everything. Johnny also showed me what it means to have a good work ethic.

Johnny is not just my uncle, he is my best friend, big brother, and my role model, not just to me but to all of our whole family. He is been there for me my whole life. Whenever we needed something, advice or we have problem Johnny is always there for us even if it is financially not just to the Gocaj family but to the whole albanian community in usa even in towns plava and gucia in montenegro where he helped so many families in need he build so many houses for them to the needed and supported them financially when they did not have any money to buy groceries for their families.

Here in united states he set an example for all of us how we should work hard be kind to people and always do the right thing and help people on every opportunity we can. Me and my cousins we manage, own so many successful restaurants and other business in new york city surrounding area all do to johnny's guidance even to this day without uncle johnny and his support i am not sure how we would make it. we all look up to uncle johnny and we all always stand by him not matter what life throws at us because when we that the good forgot about us johnny gave us all the hope and support we needed he helped and touched so many people. Even after i got married and i have 2 teenage kids i still look up to him because he always sets up a good example how father and husband should be and his kids are real lucky to have a great father like him and i am blessed to have a great uncle like him. even my wife and kids are always talking about my uncle johnny because of how great of the uncle he is.

Johnny supported so many non profit organizations here in united states donated so much time,money and effort that he neglected himself.I truly believe people took advantage of his kindness and johnny always see only good in people and he could not tell the difference.

I hope after my letter you get to see johnny from my way as a great father,
husband,brother,son,friend and greatest uncle to me and my cousins

Thank you
Kujtim Rugova

Fatmir Rugova
2130 Williamsbridge Road
Bronx, NY 10461

10/13/2018

Hon. Kiyo A. Matsumoto
United States District Judge
United States District Court
Eastern District of New York
225 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, NY 11201

RE: Xhevat Gocaj

Dear Judge Masumoto,

My name is Fatmir Rugova, I am writing this letter on behalf of my uncle Xhevat Gocaj. I am an employee at Smith and Wollensky Steakhouse located in midtown Manhattan and I owe all my success to my uncle Xhevat. When I came to this country in 1999 as a refugee from Kosova, Xhevat was the only person that my brother and I could call for help and support. I remember like yesterday falling asleep 19 years ago knowing that we would make it in this country, because we had an amazing uncle like Xhevat on our side encouraging us.

Xhevat, helped me establish myself by helping me find employment, a place to live, and by providing his never ending support and guidance. When ever I would feel lost or confused, I would call Xhevat and he would reassure me that "everything would be fine" and that life has it's ups and downs, but we have to accept them and just try our best to overcome them. Xhevat is the most giving person I have ever met. He is compassionate, selfless, hard working, and a family man. He never gave up on any one and always extended a helping hand to anybody in need. Everytime Xhevat and I would part, his last words would always echoe in my head " Call me if you need anything, I'm serious, I'll be there." That's who Xhevat is, those are the same words I have heard for the past 19 years and everytime I hear them, a sense of relief overcomes me and I feel safe and sound.

I ask you Judge Masumoto to please give uncle Xhevat the utter most lienecy the court can provide. Xhevat has always been there for me and everyone I know. It is our time, my time to help support him. Xhevat is a wonderful friend, uncle, family man, and mentor. It would be a loss for our whole community to not have him in our lives continuing to guide and support us.

I thank you Judge Masumoto in advance for taking the time to consider this request, and I hope you can trust and believe that Xhevat is one of the good guys.

Thank you,

Fatmir Rugova

October 11th, 2018

Honorable Judge Matsumoto,

This letter is written in order to kindly request for leniency at the sentencing for Xhevat Gocaj, or John, as I and people close to him have called him.

My name is Faton Gocaj, I am a longtime friend and family member to Xhevat Gocaj. I came to America at the age of 18. I traveled here alone with not much guidance from my family who lived back home, in Albania. With little hope and desire to accomplish the American dream, my uncle John took me under his wings and made sure that I went to school and made something of myself. I thank him for where I am today. I am a general contractor for a very successful company based out of New York City. My brother and I are owners of a prestigious steakhouse restaurant, and I feel like I owe my determination to my uncle.

Meeting Uncle John for the first time as a child back in Albania, we immediately looked up to him and hoped to one day to accomplish as much as he had. John always made me feel passionate about striving to my greatest potential in life. He has always been someone that we looked up to as kids. He always showed respect to his family and others around him. My family knew that he would be there to help guide us because of his strong values. When it comes to the Albanian Community, John always was first to lend a helping hand. He is a philanthropist and has donated his time and effort to various organizations throughout the community.

I am overwhelmed when I heard of the charges against my uncle, Xhevat Gocaj. I feel betrayed in a way and much grief for his family. I can not believe Uncle John has been part of such an intense case that portrays him to be someone he is not. The actions brought upon him are out of his character and unreal.

Honorable Judge Matsumoto, when the time comes for his sentencing, please I kindly ask you to consider this letter and take into the consideration of all the good qualities that my uncle, John has fulfilled so far in his lifetime.

Yours sincerely,

Faton Gocaj
(646) 878-3947

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Faton Gocaj', with a stylized, flowing script.

Sofija Sinanaj
2130 Williamsbridge Road
Bronx, NY 10461

10/13/2018

Hon. Kiyo A. Matsumoto
United States District Judge
United States District Court
Eastern District of New York
225 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, NY 11201

RE: Xhevat Gocaj

Dear Judge Masumoto,

I am writing this letter on behalf of one of the bravest, upstanding, and selfless people on earth Xhevat (Johnny) Gocaj. My name is Sofija Sinanaj, and my relationship with Johnny began exactly 18 years ago on October 22, 2000 on my wedding day. My marriage to my husband was not widely accepted by the Albanian community, however Johnny broke down barriers and welcomed me into their family with open arms. He defied cultural norms and stood up to other people that mocked, offended, and ostracized my husband's decision to follow his heart. Johnny is a strong believer in people's rights to live the best life they could. He would never hurt or interfere with another person's happiness but rather more he would support and defend it as much as he could regardless of the consequences he would face. Johnny showed my husband and I, that we were worth the fight. He made us believe in what we had when no one else did.

Johnny and his wife Shqipe have been great family friends ever since then. Their oldest son Endrit was born 10 days before my wedding and they both still attended my wedding to support my husband Kujtim and I. Having them there in lieu of both our parents, created comfort for us beyond belief. Dinner's at Johnny's with his family are nothing short of laughs, love, and deep reminders of the obstacles of life and the courage we all need to get past them. I have watched his family grow and blossom into one of the most highly respected families. Through their hard work, honesty, love, and respect for all, they have paved the way for so many Albanian men and women like myself. Not only is Johnny a wonderful man, but his wife Shqipe is a strong reflection of the same values and beliefs he carries. She is a constant reminder of what it means to be human in today's age. In addition, their two children Endrit and Eralda are only intended for greatness and will hopefully carry the torch lit by their parents.

It is not often a person gets an opportunity to express their gratitude to someone unless it's a eulogy. I am honored today to write this letter on behalf of Johnny, he has my endless support throughout his ordeal. He has moved mountains since I have known him. I am a mother of two teenage children myself today. I thank Johnny for standing up for us 18 years ago and believing

in our future. I am here to say " I too stand for Johnny." I know for a fact Johnny is an honest and great man, and does not have a malicious bone in his body.

Judge Masumoto, I implore you to see the Johnny I know, to reflect on all that he has done to ensure everyone he knows lives the best life they could. Johnny is a brave and courageous person, that has changed the tide for so many people. It is my hope that you will understand it is time for someone to stick up for Johnny, he deserves now more than ever.

Respectfully,

Sofija Sinanaj

10/12/2018

Honorable Kiyo A. Matsumoto
United States District Judge
United States District Court
Eastern District Of New York
225 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Honorable Judge Matsumoto:

My name is Luan Bruncaj and my cousin is Xhevat Gocaj. Xhevat has always been a active member in our community. He has always shown the importance of a strong community. He has organized multiple community events including picnics, street parties, carnivals, dances, and shows. The community is at a loss without Xhevat. He has always been a role model to our youth and shown honor and respect to all.

Please have mercy on Xhevat so that he may return to a community that so dearly misses him.

With sincere respect


Luan Bruncaj
973-885-6479

10/12/2018

Honorable Kiyo A. Matsumoto
United States District Judge
United States District Court
Eastern District Of New York
225 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, New York 11201

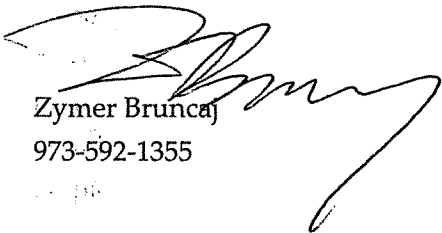
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Honorable Judge Matsumoto:

My name is Zymer Bruncaj and I am first cousin to Xhevat Gocaj. Growing up me and Xhevat were very close we as a family are very close. Knowing Xhevat and the type of man he is, he is the most loyal and compassionate son to my Aunt Hajrie his mother all the years of his growing up he always aimed to please and honor not just his mother and father but the family as a whole. Xhevat has been the most loyal, caring, giving, Son, Father, Husband, Cousin, and member of society. He has given up his own home to help refugees family members. He has employed the unemployable. Our family thrives on the actions and compassion of Xhevat.

I ask that this court be merciful and show compassion to our family and give leniency to Xhevat.

With highest regard and respect


Zymer Bruncaj

973-592-1355

10/12/2018

Honorable Kiyo A. Matsumoto
United States District Judge
United States District Court
Eastern District Of New York
225 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, New York 11201

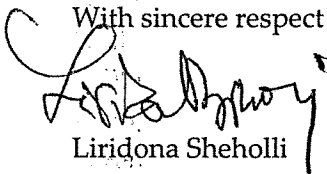
10/12/18

Honorable Judge Matsumoto:

My name is Liridona Sheholli and my cousin is Xhevat Gocaj Growing up Xhevat was always a constant figure. He was always at all family functions and showed admiration and respect for all our family. He was always telling us how important family is and the highest honor in life is having your parents proud of you. I carried this through all my adolescent and young adult years and made sure that every decision I made was to honor and respect my parents and I am proud to say that I personally learned this from Xhevat.

I ask that this court please show leniency and mercy on Xhevat and our family as a whole as we all carry this together.

With sincere respect



Liridona Sheholli

973-454-6671

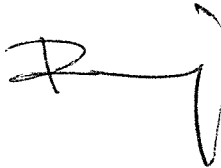
October 13, 2018

Dear Judge Matsumoto,

I am bashkim Goçaj and xhevat is my family. I know xhevat by Johnny. He is one amazing person. He is loyal and very helpful. Johnny always cares for me and supports me. Gives me advice when I need it. I speak with Xhevat almost everyday if not I'll text message him. I try to go see him and the family on weekends as much as I can. The most reason why I adore him is because he always tries to get the whole family together, for dinners and celebrations. Please feel free to contact me 917-376-7199 or email me Benhybellog@gmail.com.

Thank You,

Bashkim Goçaj

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bj' with a long horizontal stroke and a vertical line extending downwards.

10/12/2018

Honorable Kiyo A. Matsumoto
United States District Judge
United States District Court
Eastern District Of New York
225 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, New York 11201

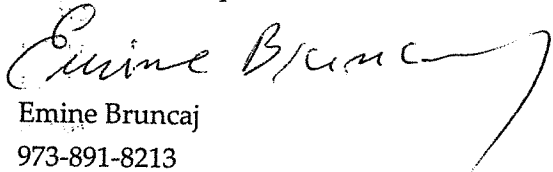
10/12/18

Honorable Judge Matsumoto:

My name is Emine Bruncaj and my cousin is Xhevat Gocaj I married Xhevats cousin over 40 years ago. I am honored to have Xhevat as a part of my family. Xhevat has always been a respectful man, he has always put his family first. He has gone above and beyond to those in need. Xhevat is a dedicated son, husband, father. I have a special place in my heart for Xhevat for the giving and loving actions he did for the refugees during the war and crisis in Kosova.

Your honor I ask that the court please show mercy for Xhevat and our family and show him compassion at time of sentence.

With sincere respect


Emine Bruncaj
973-891-8213

October 14,2018

Dear judge Matsumoto,

My name is Shqipe Hasangjekaj Goçaj, I am the wife of Mr. Xhevat John Goçaj. We've been happily married since April 16 2001 (20 years together). Mr. Goçaj has been a wonderful father to our kids and a great husband. He is a family man, a hard worker, and he is kind hearted.

He has supported his family back home since he came in United States. He was also a member of none for profit foundation for our community where he has helped those who were less fortunate and in need of help with homes and roads. He even helped supported families that couldn't afford to send their children to school. John is a really a unique and true gentleman and I am proud to call him my husband.

Writing this I'm so emotional because I never ever thought that I would write for this matter. I have to say it hit me the hardest when I saw his name in that newspaper. I am used to seeing his name as a successful businessman that he is. I used to see and hear his name just for a good deeds. It's in his blood to help people. As a friend he will help you with all he has, with out questioning, and without any expectation. He's the most welcoming person I know! What I can say he has heart of gold. Let's talk about how he is as a husband. Whenever I needed him the most he was there for me. In my most difficult times he was there to support me, not just me but my family to!

I want to highlight just three most amazing things he did for my family:

In 2001/2002 my father (the most precious person in my life) had a open heart surgery here in NY. After the surgery he needed medication. He didn't have any insurance at that time. who was there to help ? Of course Mr.Xhevat as usual.For years he was the one who paid for my father's medication.

Time passes, another sad event happens. Now my nephew Leonat Hasangjekaj, the only son my brother has gotten really sick. He lives in Kosovo and at that time his parents didn't work. Leonat needed to have some brain surgery.The procedure had to be done in Switzerland. Again with my husbands help, he was able to get that procedure done. Until this day my husband continues to even pay for Leonat's special needs program for children with autism. Oh God this world needs more people like Xhevat!

After some time another tragic event has occurred. In 2011 my eldest brother Shaban Hasangjekaj was diagnosed with both kidney failures. My world turned upside down. He was on dialysis for five years. I decided to donate my kidney to my brother. In 2016, my brother and I went for a pre-testing to see if I'm a match. I sat down with my husband and started explaining to ho, about the pre testing, process, and procedure. John was emotional and surprised. Throughout the whole process he was super supportive with my decision . On July 12,2016 the day of the surgery has come. My husband was there by our bedside day in and day out even though he had a business to run. He still put his family first. Without him I wouldn't ever be able to go through all this.

A lot of people are amazed by my husband and adore him. Yes, I have donated one kidney, but I can say he donates his life In a way to help people in need. I adore and love him. I'm so proud to call him my Husband! I can write a book for how amazing and giving and truthful person he is! Hopefully this gives you an idea of who he really is.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shqipe Goçaj'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Shqipe' written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name 'Goçaj'.

October 13, 2018

Dear Judge Matsumoto,

I, Saranda Gocaj, daughter of Xhevat Gocaj am writing this letter with a heavy yet hopeful heart. I am aware that my "babi" (pronounced 'bobby'/'dad' in Albanian) pleaded guilty to the criminal charges and it has broken me to pieces. I cannot even conjure up the words or thoughts after being aware of these charges.

My dad and I keep in contact every day and have a healthy father-daughter relationship. My time spent with him has shown me how endearing, hard working, and selfless my father is. There is not a day that goes by that my dad and I don't keep in contact. He is the type of person that loves to help people and put other's needs before his own.

One example of his selflessness is when I was about 11 years old and met a less fortunate, elderly woman who used to be my father's neighbor. She would always share many stories about my father as a teenager up until his early 20s. When my father was younger, he used to bring this woman homemade bread and cheese every day. Another story she told me was when my father would buy her knick knacks she would need for herself and he would spare his income he made at the time just so he can get her what she needed. One specific thing she once asked for was a clock. My father bought her one and promised when he gets better pay, he'll buy her a better one. Years later, he kept his promise and bought her an even nicer clock.

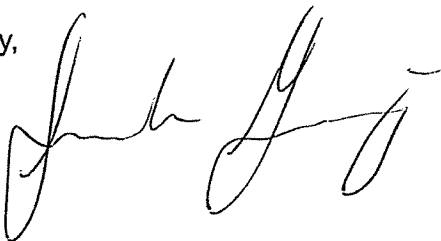
That is not the only story I can tell you about my fathers' selflessness. When I was growing up, I remember relatives would visit our house or come to my father's home seeking help after losing their jobs. My father helped by providing them a place to eat and sleep until they would stabilize themselves and never asked for anything in return. He always believed in good karma and always helped with good intention. He taught me that no matter where you live or how much or little you have, a little help can go a long way and mean so much to the person you are helping.

Lastly, being an employee at my father's restaurant has given me the opportunity to see my father in his "work mode" and how hard work pays off. He taught me how discipline and structure helps you achieve all levels of success. Working with my dad has helped me provide for myself and pursue my education as a nurse which I completed. I see a reflection of my dad in me because of the dedication I put in.

I hope this has given you a glimpse of what my father is really like through not only my eyes but others as well.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Saranda Gocaj', written in a cursive style.

October 14,2018

Dear judge Matsumoto,

My name is Eralda Gocaj, the daughter of Xhevat Gocaj.I'm 15 years old and I am currently a Sophomore in High School. I am writing you this letter in hope you will be considerable with your decision.

I can go on and on about how my father is as a man, a husband, and a father. Most importantly, how much of an impact he's made on my life. He has always been there for me from the start and has never left me alone. Since I'm only a teenager, I don't really understand how these things go so I'll just say this, my dad is the most kindest person living on this earth and I have multiple reasons to prove that. He's such a selfless person and works hard to support his family. I can say that it may not be easy to support your wife, kids, and family that live in other countries along with supporting others in need. He has always put his family first and always left us with nothing but the best for us. For example, we use to live in the Bronx, until we moved to Westchester, NY in 2016. We mainly moved because my parents wanted to create a better living environment for us, better schools, so we can have bigger and better opportunities in the future. My father has always been there for me when I needed him for literally anything. I can gladly say I never had to struggle with anything, thanks to him. He always taught me to be grateful for what I had because one day it can all be gone in a blink of an eye. He always told my siblings and I how hard it was for him growing up especially since he was born and raised in Montenegro then later migrate to the United States. We were taught that everything cannot be handed to us so easily and that we should work for what we have instead of expecting it to be handed to us. Although my father has given beyond the great to us, we still learn the price of things because as we get older my father cannot always be there to give me what I need and I am learning to understand that. He has always made a positive impact or contribution to whatever it is people needed. Especially to his immediate family which has always came first in his life.

My father runs a restaurant business and is always busy but still manages to balance his time for his family.

He plays such an important role in my life and hope I will be lucky to have him by my side for as long as I can. He is the type of person everybody just loves to be around. He always brings such positive energy whenever he walks in a room. He is a big family guy, and loves to surround himself with nothing but positivity and love which is all he spreads.

Sincerely,
Eralda Gocaj

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Eralda', written in dark ink.

October 14, 2018

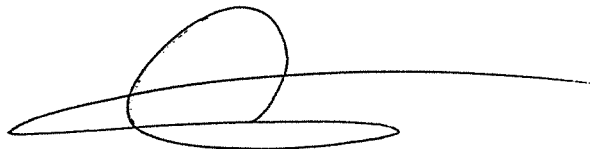
Hon. Kiyo A. Matsumoto
United States District Judge
United States District Court
Eastern District of New York
225 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, New York 11201

Dear Judge Matsumoto,

I am Endrit Gocaj, the son of Xhevat Gocaj. My dad is the type of person that likes to help people out without asking any questions. If anyone needs help he'll try his best to be helpful to them. He's a family man, I used to barely see him when I was younger because of how hard he worked to be able to support my mom, my sister, and our family in Montenegro. That includes my 3 aunts and their individual families plus my uncles and grandparents. My father used to work 7 days a week, nonstop from morning until midnight. I grew up respecting him the most, he's the man that I aspire to be once I finish college, his work ethic, intelligence and all. My dad always had his family's best interest in mind. He's also a part of the Plav and Guci Organization, this is a charitable organization which helps with Albanian families financial needs. If I was able to choose any father in the world I would choose Xhevat 10 times out of 10, he's taught me so much and raised me to be the best I can be. During the summer we would talk during the night when it was just the 2 of us, he'd tell me stories about how hard it was for him in Montenegro and he'd tell me about how he believes in me and believes that I can be the most successful person if I put head to it. He's somebody that I need in my life, he keeps me on track and without him I feel like it'd be hard for me to keep going on. All in all, I respect my dad the most out of anyone that I know, he's the most hardworking, nicest, and dedicated father that I know.

Sincerely,

Endrit Gocaj

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'E' followed by a horizontal line that extends to the right and then loops back under the 'E'.

October 11th, 2018

Dear Judge Matsumoto,

I write this letter to you with the utmost respect to ask for leniency at the sentencing of my father, my hero, our rock Xhevat Gocaj.

No one can put into words the type of love a son has for his father or the love a father shows towards their son. As the first born in my family, I was granted with the most love a child could have in their younger years. I went to the best schools growing up but I learned to be the man I am from my father, Xhevat. He expressed to me since the day I could remember that respect comes a long way and the first place it starts is with yourself. I've lived my life with these words at the tip of my tongue and this is why I am who I am today. I am an electrician. With this, it is clear that at a position in this type of industry such as, it is important that you know how to hold yourself and that you give others the respect that you would want to be given to you. I learned this from my father. In my eyes my father is superior, and I hope to one day fulfill the dream I had of becoming an ounce of who he is.

My father has taught me to always put someone in need first. That I always had it better than others and that giving back to the Albanian Community would always come back to me full circle. This is the reason why I am involved in so many fundraisers and simple charitable events because these are all things my father did. People have respect for my family despite what accusations have been said about my father, they know who we really are. Hard working, always ready to give a helping hand and most of all trustworthy. Man of his word. When someone seeking help, we were always there willing.

I can continue to tell you all the positive things that my father has been involved in but in the end, words just can't express the real person that my father, Xhevat Gocaj is. I hope your honor, you take this letter as a plea to be lenient when sentencing my father. He is an amazing person who wears too many hats to name. I need him. My family needs him. Moving forward would almost be impossible without him around. With a heavy heart, I hope that you forgive him and know that the actions brought upon him are just not who my father is.

Yours faithfully,

Ardit Gocaj
(347) 327- 2435

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'A' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that extends to the right.